WRITTEN ANSWERS TO THE UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

2879. SHRI G. SANJEEVA REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether merger of Indian and Air India has been already decided and the finalisation is some what ready;

(b) if so, what about the Alliance Air which is a subsidiary of Indian;

(c) whether Government have taken a decision on the Alliance Air; and

(d) whether there is a plan to merge Alliance Air with Indian?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) The Government has 'in-principle' decided to merge Air India Limited and Indian Airlines Limited. A Consultant has already been appointed to prepare the road map for merger. One of the terms of reference for appointment of Consultant is functioning of subsidiary companies and their possible merger.

Grounding of Airbus aircrafts

2880. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for grounding of Airbus aircrafts;

(b) whether it is a fact that non-availability of spares for engine are one of the reasons for (a) above;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Indian Airlines failed to adhere to payment schedule for engines and spares of Airbus aircrafts; and

(d) by when the Airbus aircrafts will be on air?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Indian Airlines has 57 airbus aircraft (6 A-319, 48 A-320 and 3 A-300) in its fleet. Of these, normally 7 remain grounded for scheduled maintenance at any given point of time. As against this, 9 a-320 aircraft and 1 A-300 aircraft are presently grounded for major maintenance, want of engines as also for scheduled maintenance.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) The availability of aircraft for scheduled operation has improved considerably and the Winter Schedule of Indian airlines effective October, 2006. has been planned with 39 A-320 aircraft, 2 A-300 and all 6 A-319 aircraft. Efforts are on to increase engine availibility so that optimum utilization of aircraft, as per laid down norms, is achieved.

Parking problem at Dabolim Airport

2881. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether taxi owners are charged Rs. 500/- to Rs. 1000/- per month for parking their taxis at the Dabolim Airport;

(b) whether the Airports Authority of India has closed access to the taxis which were being parked in a privately owned plot nearby the parking plot of the AAI;

(c) whether it is a fact that taxi owners face undue harassment from the contractor nominated to collect parking fees;

(d) whether these tussles among taxi owners, contractors, AAI and security personnel vitiate the pleasant atmosphere in Goa; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

New building for airport at Ahmedabad

2882. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT:
SHRI SURYAKANT ACHARYA:
SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the project of Rs. 291 crores is prepared for the construction of new building for international airport at Ahmedabad and is pending for clearance from Cabinet Committee for Economic Affairs; and